

- VI. Claims 49-63, 65 and 66, drawn to a method of making a crosslinked adhesive composition; and
- VII. Claims 67-80, drawn to a crosslinked adhesive composition; and
- VIII. Claim 121, drawn to a transdermal.

The Examiner contends that these claims are distinct because a number of the inventions are said to be mutually exclusive species and have an intermediate-final product relationship, and that the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product. Furthermore, other inventions are said to be related as processes of making and products made. In any event, while applicants traverse this objection, as required, applicants also provisionally elect Invention I; namely, that of claims 1-28 and 67-120, for prosecution herein. This provisional election is made without prejudice to applicants' prosecution of the other non-elected inventions in separate divisional applications, as may be required.

Applicants would further note that, irrespective of the Examiner's comments with respect to these different sets of claims, because of the relationship between them, and the fact that many of these sets of claims, if not all of them, can be searched in a single search, there is no reason to divide this application into so many allegedly different inventions. Indeed, there would be no undue burden on the Patent Office, since a single search will suffice, but there will certainly be a significant burden on applicants, who will have to prosecute so many different sets of claims herein.

In any event, however, in view of the above provisional election, it is clear that, even if the Examiner does not agree with applicants' traversal of this objection, this application is clearly in condition for prosecution on the merits, and such action is therefore respectfully solicited. Indeed, in view of the patentable nature of these claims, consideration and allowance of these claims is also respectfully solicited.

If, however, for any reason, the Examiner does not

believe that this is the case, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants; attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any further objections he may have to proceeding with the prosecution of this application.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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